

**New Hampshire State Council on the Arts**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – July 13, 2020**  
**NHSCA’s online Zoom Meeting Space**

**Arts Councilors Present**

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vivian Beer, Angela Brown, Sara Germain, R.P. Hale, Margaret Jacobs, José Lezcano, Mary McLaughlin, William Stelling, Jason Tors and Cecilia Ulibarri

**Arts Councilors Absent**

Tim Sink, Catherine Sununu, Peter Warburton and Leah Woods

**Staff Present**

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Commissioner Sarah Stewart; DNCR Arts Division Director Ginnie Lupi; Cassandra Mason, Chief Grants Officer (CGO); Kayla Schweitzer, Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator (HTA); Lisa Burk-McCoy, Creative Communities & Arts in Health Coordinator (CC/AIH); Carey Johnson, Curatorial Specialist (CS); and Emily Killinger, Visual Arts Associate (VAA)

**Motions (carried)**

- Accept the minutes of May 20, 2020 Council meeting
- Approve Artist Residencies in Schools (AIR) grant recommendations (up to \$5,765)
- Approve Youth Arts Projects (YAP) grant recommendations (up to \$84,800)
- Approve Arts in Health (AIH) grant recommendations (up to \$65,305)
- Approve Artist Entrepreneurial grant recommendations (up to \$13,647)
- Approve NH CARES Act grant- Round 2 (\$3,000, and \$1,000 grants) recommendations (\$67,000)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts to order at 10:02 a.m. on July 13, 2020.

**II. MINUTES**

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the May 20, 2020 meeting. Councilor Angela Brown moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Jose Lezcano. The minutes from May 20, 2020 were unanimously approved.

**III. COMMISSIONER’S REPORT**

DNCR Commissioner Sarah Stewart reported that the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources has been accomplishing a lot during this pandemic, including State Parks being open to the public. The State Library is now open (appointments only) with protective plexiglass at their information desks. Historical Resources had a celebration complete with face masks to celebrate a newly registered Historic Site. The arts are clearly being hit the hardest out of most industries as a result of the pandemic. The State is looking at a potential \$500,000 deficit in the new Fiscal Year, and the Governor has asked all agencies to prepare budgets that reduce funding by 20% across the board.

**IV. STAFF REPORTS**

Director Ginnie Lupi reported that the entire staff has been diligently working, with increased workloads due to emergency grant programs for organizations (federal CARES Act) and artists (NEFA Emergency Artist funding) and needs of the field. Connections with the field have been strong and growing during this time. Director Lupi reported on her work with the Governor’s Reopening Task Force subgroup for the arts where she worked with arts organizations and businesses to create reopening guidelines for four groups: Performance Venues, Community-

Based Arts Education, Festivals & Fairs, and Museums & Galleries. As a result of this effort, an ad hoc group of arts organizations is working with Arts 4 NH to increase arts advocacy in NH.

CGO Mason reported that in 2008 with a staff of nine people NHSCA processed 327 grants throughout the entire fiscal year. This year with a staff of six (which would be seven; the vacant Arts Education position is held-up in the State's current hiring freeze), NHSCA has already processed 304 grants (keeping in mind that there are still five grant categories with pending or upcoming deadlines). This comparison illustrates the increase in the staff's workload related to the pandemic.

#### **V. APPROVAL of ARTIST RESIDENCIES IN SCHOOLS grants (\$5,765 )**

The three-member panel met on Zoom and reviewed 2 grant applications. The panel ranked them and recommended 2 applications for funding, for a total of up to \$5,765 in funding.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Artist Residencies in Schools recommendations. There was no discussion and the Council unanimously approved.

- Moved: Councilor R.P. Hale
- Second: Councilor Mary McLaughlin
- Nays: None
- Abstentions: None

#### **VI. APPROVAL of YOUTH ARTS PROJECTS (YAP) grants (\$84,800 )**

The three-member panel met on Zoom and reviewed 16 grant applications. The panel ranked them and recommended 14 applications for funding, for a total of up to \$84,800 in funding. It was noted that not many drafts were submitted for review ahead of this grant category's deadline.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Youth Arts Projects recommendations. There was no discussion and the Council unanimously approved.

- Moved: Councilor Sara Germain
- Second: Councilor William (Bill) Stelling
- Nays: None
- Abstentions: None

#### **VII. APPROVAL of ARTS IN HEALTH (AIH) grants (\$65,305 )**

The four-member panel met on Zoom and reviewed 14 grant applications. The panel ranked them and recommended 11 applications for funding, for a total of up to \$65,305 in funding. It was noted that this year a public health track was added to the standard health and healing track, which accounts for 4 of the 14 total applications.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Arts in Health recommendations. There was no discussion and the Council unanimously approved.

- Moved: Councilor R.P. Hale
- Second: Councilor Vivian Beer
- Nays: None
- Abstentions: Bill Stelling

**VIII. APPROVAL of ARTIST ENTREPRENEURIAL grants (\$13,647 )**

NHSCA Staff served as the panel and reviewed 22 grant applications. The panel ranked them and recommended 15 applications for funding, for a total of up to \$13,647 in funding.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Artist Entrepreneurial recommendations. There was no discussion and the Council unanimously approved.

- Moved: Councilor Mary McLaughlin
- Second: Councilor Cecilia Ulibarri
- Nays: None
- Abstentions: Vivian Beer and Margaret Jacobs

**IX. APPROVAL of NH CARES GRANTS – ROUND 2 (\$3,000 and \$1,000 levels) (\$13,647 )**

As part of the Federal CARES Act NHSCA received \$427,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts to distribute to nonprofit arts organizations impacted by COVID-19. Round 1, approved by the Council in the last meeting, awarded \$7,500 grants to current and past operating grant (PVP) recipients. Round 2 of this funding will be granted in amounts of \$3,000 and \$1,000 to nonprofit New Hampshire arts organizations. The \$3,000 level is directed to non-profit arts organizations that have received program support from the Arts Council in the past four years (FY17 – FY20), and the \$1,000 level provides support for organizations that have never received funding from NHSCA. It was noted that organizations receiving direct CARES Act funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities or New Hampshire Humanities will not be eligible for Arts Council NH CARES funding. Eligible organizations have been notified by email.

Two panels were formed, one for each level of funding (\$3,000, and \$1,000). They reviewed their respective grants and recommended funding 31 of the 39 applications received, for a total of \$67,000 in funding.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the NH CARES recommendations. There was no discussion and the Council unanimously approved.

- Moved: Councilor Jose Lezcano
- Second: Councilor R.P. Hale
- Nays: None
- Abstentions: None

**X. COUNCILOR ROUND ROBIN**

Director Lupi provided more detail about the state budget situation and current advocacy efforts and Councilor Brooks invited Councilors to speak directly about their thoughts about the impact of potential cuts to the Arts Council and the field.

**XI. ADJOURN**

- Motion to adjourn from the business meeting: Councilor Angela Brown
- Second: Councilor Jose Lezcano
- Nays: None
- Abstentions: None

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:39p.m. on July 13, 2020.

**Remaining 2020 Council Meeting Dates (start time will be 9:30 AM, unless otherwise indicated):**

Wednesday, September 16 – location TBD

Monday, November 16 – location TBD